

Serial No. 09/692,949

- 2 -

Art Unit: 2153

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for controlling ~~causing a network device to locally perform a~~ data forwarding ~~related service in , wherein the~~ a network device comprising ~~comprises~~ a data forwarding device, comprising the steps of:

receiving at the network device a document written in accordance with a markup language and a corresponding document definition, wherein the document describes the a data forwarding service;

parsing by the network device the received document in accordance with the corresponding document definition, wherein the parsing determines at least one parameter describing the data forwarding service; and

executing the data forwarding service on the network device in accordance with the parsed document.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of executing includes the step of interfacing with hardware and software on the network device.

3. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the markup language is XML.

4. (original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the corresponding document definition is an XML DTD.

5. (original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

retrieving the corresponding document definition from a plurality of document definitions in accordance with an identifier in the received document.

6. (original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the plurality of document definitions are provided in a local storage of the network device.

Serial No. 09/692,949

- 3 -

Art Unit: 2153

7. (original) A method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of:  
retrieving the corresponding document definition from a plurality of document definitions  
in accordance with an identifier in the received document.
8. (original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the plurality of document definitions are  
provided in a local storage of the network device.
9. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of parsing includes the step of  
parsing from the document an identifier corresponding to the service.
10. (original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the step of parsing further includes the  
step of parsing from the document runtime parameters corresponding to the service.
11. (original) A method according to claim 5, further including the step of:  
instantiating an object corresponding to the service in accordance with the parsed  
identifier.
12. (original) A method according to claim 10, further including the step of:  
instantiating an object corresponding to the service in accordance with the parsed  
identifier and the parsed runtime parameters.
13. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the network device comprises one of a  
router, a switch, and a hub.
14. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the network device comprises a packet  
forwarding architecture.
15. (original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of preparing a response  
corresponding to the executed service.

Serial No. 09/692,949

- 4 -

Art Unit: 2153

16. (original) A method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of forwarding the response to a remote requestor of the service.

17. (currently amended) A network device for locally performing a data forwarding related service in response to a remote request, wherein the network device comprises a data forwarding device, comprising:

means for receiving at the network device a document written in accordance with a markup language and a corresponding document definition, wherein the document describes the a data forwarding service;

means for parsing by the network device the received document in accordance with the corresponding document definitions, wherein the parsing determines at least one parameter describing the data forwarding service; and

means for executing the data forwarding service on the network device in accordance with the parsed document.

18. (original) A network device according to claim 17, wherein the means for executing includes means for interfacing with hardware and software on the network device.

19. (original) A network device according to claim 17, wherein the markup language is XML.

20. (original) A network device according to claim 19, wherein the corresponding document definition is an XML DTD.

21. (original) A network device according to claim 17, further comprising:

means for retrieving the corresponding document definition from a plurality of document definitions in accordance with an identifier in the received document.

22. (original) A network device according to claim 21, wherein the plurality of document definitions are provided in a local storage of the network device.

Serial No. 09/692,949

- 5 -

Art Unit: 2153

23. (original) A network device according to claim 19, further comprising:

means for retrieving the corresponding document definition from a plurality of document definitions in accordance with an identifier in the received document.

24. (original) A network device according to claim 21, wherein the plurality of document definitions are provided in a local storage of the network device.

25. (original) A network device according to claim 17, wherein the means for parsing includes means for parsing from the document an identifier corresponding to the service.

26. (original) A network device according to claim 25, wherein the means for parsing further includes means for parsing from the document runtime parameters corresponding to the service.

27. (original) A network device according to claim 21, further including:

means for instantiating an object corresponding to the service in accordance with the parsed identifier.

28. (original) A network device according to claim 26, further including:

means for instantiating an object corresponding to the service in accordance with the parsed identifier and the parsed runtime parameters.

29. (original) A network device according to claim 17, wherein the network device comprises one of a router, a switch, and a hub.

30. (original) A network device according to claim 17, wherein the network device comprises a packet forwarding architecture.

31. (original) A network device according to claim 17, further comprising means for preparing a response corresponding to the executed service.

Serial No. 09/692,949

- 6 -

Art Unit: 2153

32. (original) A network device according to claim 30, further comprising means for forwarding the response to a remote requestor of the service.

33. (currently amended) A network device for locally performing a data forwarding related service in accordance with a received document written in a document markup language, wherein the network device comprises a data forwarding device, comprising:

a parser that is adapted to parse the received document in accordance with a document definition to obtain an identifier of the service, wherein the parsing determines at least one parameter describing the data forwarding service; and

a service launcher that is adapted to launch the data forwarding service corresponding to the identifier parsed from the received document.

34. (original) A network device according to claim 33, further comprising:

a network data transfer service that is adapted to communicate with remote devices for receiving the document.

35. (original) A network device according to claim 34, wherein the network data transfer service comprises an HTTP server.

36. (original) A network device according to claim 33, wherein the markup language is XML.

37. (original) A network device according to claim 36, wherein the document definition is an XML DTD.

38. (original) A network device according to claim 33, further comprising a document definition storage coupled to the parser that stores a plurality of document definitions, the parser being further adapted to select the document definition from the stored plurality of document definitions in accordance with a document definition identifier.

Serial No. 09/692,949

- 7 -

Art Unit: 2153

39. (original) A network device according to claim 33, further comprising a services storage coupled to the service launcher that stores a plurality of services, the service launcher being further adapted to select the service from the stored plurality of services in accordance with the parsed identifier.

40. (original) A network device according to claim 33, further comprising an Oplet Runtime Environment, the service launcher being further adapted to launch the service under the Oplet Runtime Environment.

41. (original) A network device according to claim 33, further comprising a packet forwarding switch fabric.

42. (original) A network device according to claim 41, wherein the launched service causes changes in how packets are forwarded through the packet forwarding switch fabric.

43. (original) A network device according to claim 41, wherein the launched service monitors performance indicators of how packets are forwarded through the packet forwarding switch fabric.

44. (original) A network device according to claim 41, wherein the launched service accesses a MIB on the network device.

45. (original) A network device according to claim 33, further comprising device APIs for interoperating with device hardware and software for executing the launched services.

46. (original) A network device according to claim 40, further comprising device APIs for interoperating with device hardware and software for executing the launched services.

47. (original) A network device according to claim 41, further comprising device APIs for interoperating with device hardware and software for executing the launched services.

Serial No. 09/692,949

- 8 -

Art Unit: 2153

48. (currently amended) A method for causing a network device to locally perform a data forwarding ~~related~~ service, wherein the network device comprises a data forwarding device, comprising the steps of:

identifying the data forwarding service to be performed at a remote client computer;  
preparing at the remote client computer a document written in a markup language in accordance with a document definition, the document including an identifier of the service, wherein the document describes the a data forwarding service;

transmitting the document to the network device;

identifying at the network device the document definition corresponding to the transmitted document;

parsing by the network device the transmitted document in accordance with the corresponding document definition, wherein the parsing determines at least one parameter describing the data forwarding service; and

executing the data forwarding related service on the network device in accordance with the parsed document.

49. (original) A method according to claim 48, wherein the markup language is XML.

50. (original) A method according to claim 49, wherein the corresponding document definition is an XML DTD.